

# Peace, Democracy Set as Twin Goals For Negro Youth

**New Orleans Conference Opens; Strong Tells  
Delegates Administration Has Failed to  
Fight Against Jim Crow Discrimination**

**By Angelo Herndon**  
(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

NEW ORLEANS, April 19.—Edward E. Strong, Executive Secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, declared at the fourth annual meeting of the organization which opened its three day session here today, that "the right of the Negro to vote in the South is a test and a challenge to American democracy." The session took place at the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church, Thalia and South Liberty Streets.

Citing the achievements of Southern Negro Youth since the inception of the organization three years ago at Richmond, Va., Strong made a stirring plea for the right of Negro Youth to work and live happily in peace. To the oppressors of the Negro people and the war-makers who are seeking desperately to involve America in the imperialist war, he hurled the defiant challenge of Negro youth and declared:

"We must keep out of Europe's war—our front is the Mason-Dixon line: democracy at home—first."

The tragic situation of Southern Negro youth was ably presented by the youth leader. Lack of jobs, adequate education and the right to live for Negro youth were emphasized as immediate problems in the fight of Negro youth for democracy.

## FUNDS FOR WAR, NOT JOBS

Strong charged the Roosevelt administration with spending billions of dollars on war appropriations, while not one cent is being spent to do away with the poverty and Jim Crow oppression of Negro youth. He said that because of the staggering war budget of Roosevelt an alarming increase of unemployment among Negro youth, which is directly traceable to the war program of Roosevelt and his newly discovered pals of Wall Street, has been recorded for the past recent months.

For this reason, he warned, "we are becoming a permanently unemployed people."

Vital issues in the fight of Southern Negro Youth, Strong emphasized, will include an uncompromising fight against the un-American Dies Committee which has sought to smear every real American organization as "un-American," the fight to extend the services of NYA and to create a permanent youth agency for adequate consideration and action on problems affecting Negro and white youth.

With an incomplete registration of more than five hundred youthful delegates from fourteen Southern states, the Fourth Annual Conference of Southern Negro Youth will be another historic milestone in the fight of the Negro people for freedom. The dynamic fervor and keen social vision with which Negro youth delegates from Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and other states, view their problems of economic, political and social repression, is indeed a sign that the new generation of Negro youth are determined to break through barriers which bind them and all Negroes.

## HEAR YOUTH SPEAKERS

This new spirit is spreading like wildfire throughout the South. The example of 16-year-old Harold D. Solomon, from Birmingham, is in-

dicative of the wide influence of the Southern Negro Youth Congress. Young Solomon heard the the Indian leader, Rajni Patel, speak in Birmingham about the India National Congress and the Southern Negro Youth Congress, and decided that he would have to attend the New Orleans Conference, come what may. In his own words:

"I did not have any money to come here. But when I heard about the Conference, I just had to come. I went from house to house and collected enough money to come here. When I get back to Birmingham, I will do everything I can to inspire all boys and girls of my age to work for the Congress."

Eloise Brown, 12-year-old Negro girl who came from Jefferson Parish, La., recited a fighting poem on liberty which brought the house down in terrific applause.

The session this afternoon will be devoted to a full discussion on "Balloting for Democracy." Speakers on this topic will include Dr. Rayford W. Logan of Howard University, Joseph Cadden, American Youth Congress, attorney Archie L. Le Cense, Donald Jones and Dr. James E. Jackson of Richmond, Va.

A separate meeting of state delegations will also be held on how to develop various techniques for conducting the drive for the fight to vote. A city-wide youth rally will be held tonight where Dr. Max Yergan, secretary of the International Committee on African Affairs, will speak on "Negro Youth in the International Scene." Other speakers scheduled for tonight's meeting will be: Dr. F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, Herman H. Long, chairman of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, Thelma Dale, Ernest J. Wright of the New Orleans Youth Council and Professor Ferdinand Rousseve.

Tomorrow the Conference will take up problems of youth in farming and rural communities of the South.

## Exports to Japan Decline One-Third

WASHINGTON, April 19 (UP).—The Commerce Department reported today that American exports to Japan dropped from \$28,247,000 in January to \$15,193,000 in February.

Import from Japan during February dropped to \$7,998,000 compared with January "record high" of \$22,196,000.

"Unusually heavy" January buying was attributed to expiration of the U.S.-Japanese commerce treaty and subsequent Japanese fears that this country might attempt economic reprisals.